

Paraguay

I. Blending Races in a Land-Locked State

By H. F. Notley

Traveller and Lecturer

THAT the Spanish occupation of South America did that continent an infinity of harm no one acquainted with its history would now question. Neither is there room for doubt that the freeing of the continent from the rule of Spain did it harm also. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the yoke of Spain had become fairly light; it did not result in good government, but it could have been improved in such a manner as to prepare the way for a system on democratic lines. This probably would have made the development of South America a more orderly business than it actually became.

The new states were not supplied with a large enough number of honest and sensible national leaders. The peoples were utterly ignorant and dangerously excitable. The consequence was that nearly all of the republics created in the early years of the nineteenth century were for a long period torn by revolution, usually accompanied by civil war of a

very savage and detestable character. The one South American country which long escaped the plague of revolution that swept the continent was one of the two inland republics, Paraguay. The other, Bolivia, had its full share of the disease. That Paraguay did not become infected for a very long time is explained by the circumstance that Paraguay for many years had no professional

politicians. From four years after it declared itself independent of Spain it was ruled autocratically for more than fifty years. The autocrats who thus governed the Paraguayans were not models of benevolent despotism. Yet, when all their faults are admitted, it has to be granted that they did keep order, that they did instil some kind of discipline into the people, and that they encouraged work.

Therefore, when at last Paraguay became a self-governing state, it began by governing itself on the whole wisely, choosing better leaders and administrators than were chosen by most of its neighbours. This



LENGUA WOMAN OF PARAGUAY

Averaging five feet four inches in height, Lengua women have well-proportioned figures, and soft textured, reddish-chocolate skin. Tribal marks deform their not unpleasing faces

Photo, J. Richards



ONE JAGUAR LESS TO PREY UPON HIS STOCK

In the pastoral industry lie potentialities of great wealth for Paraguay, which possesses vast grassy plateaux perfectly adapted for pasture. The industry is being greatly developed by the improvement of breeds and the establishment of freezing plant. This horseman, taking home the skin of a jaguar he has killed—a most destructive brute among cattle on the Pampas—is the foreman on an estancia

Photo, Miss G. Boulter

did not come to pass, unfortunately, until the land had been ruined and the population reduced from about 1,337,000 to about 221,000 by a disastrous six years' war. This war broke out in 1864, and was caused by the ruling autocrat's attempt to keep the country within a ring-fence, so that the people might not be affected by modern ideas. Foreigners were kept out by every means possible. The dictator went so far even as to block the Paraná river, one of the two vast streams which flow through Paraguay, with a barrage of logs.

The neighbouring countries, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, resented his

attitude and seized an opportunity to protest, upon which the ruler of Paraguay defied them, and induced or forced the people to keep them at bay for six years.

However, there returned to the country after peace had been made a number of the educated Paraguayans who had been exiled for their intelligence or other good qualities, and they applied themselves with good sense as well as energy to the task of reconstruction. That their efforts were, for a time, not in vain was due to the nature of the Paraguayan people. The chief Indian stock upon which the nation was based possessed many excellent qualities. The

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Guaranis were a more peaceable, teachable race than most of those which the Spaniards found in possession when they conquered South America. For a time they were as badly used as the rest, in spite of their amiable character. Then the Jesuits took them in hand, rescued them from the cruel stupidity of their conquerors, ruled them ably and kindly, treating them as children, taught them not alone the industries, but even the arts of civilization.

The system was not unlike that of the Inca government in Peru, a bureaucratic communism. Among all the governed there was equality. All were expected to do their share of work for the community, for the ruling brotherhood, and

for themselves. The brotherhood, the Jesuits, were above the law, but they appear, so far as the records can be trusted, to have used their power moderately and with justice.

It was their trading genius which brought the Jesuits into disfavour with the Spanish authorities. They were compelled to give up their territory and to leave the country. All that they had done for the people was allowed to perish. Yet so strong did the tradition of their just and orderly government remain that soon after independence had been declared the Paraguayans permitted a Jesuit named Francia to become perpetual President of the Republic, which meant that he was



HAPPY DOMESTICITY IN A VILLAGE OF PARAGUAY

Home life can be very pleasant in Paraguay, and prosperous, too, for those of more industrious disposition than the average Paraguayan, who, as a rule, is indolently content to produce enough for his own maintenance and no more. Labour reaps a rich reward in the fertile agricultural districts, and climatic conditions simplify domestic architecture in the villages and reduce necessary expenditure on clothing to a minimum

Photo, Miss G. Boultter

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STRONGBOW OF THE PARAGUAYAN WILDS

Elephantiasis is crippling his hands and feet, but this predatory Guaycuru Indian of the Gran Chaco, whose jaguar skin helmet attests his prowess in the chase, can still draw a three-foot arrow to its head on his powerful bow

seventy-four than the generality of kings are. One illustration of his good sense may be quoted. In 1819 the crops of certain districts were entirely consumed by locusts, a plague from which the farmer is not entirely free to-day. The inhabitants of these districts were in despair. Francia heard of it and sent word to them: "Sow your crops over again." At first they supposed he spoke foolishly, but most of them took his advice, and they reaped plentiful harvests. Thus it was proved that the richness of the soil and the kindliness of the climate made two sowings in the year possible. The most pressing of the problems that had to be faced by the Government which took office after the war was how to repopulate the land and get it under cultivation again. For some time not only land, but implements and seed, and even money, were supplied to immigrants. A great many Spaniards, Italians, and Germans were induced

empowered to rule as a despot, responsible to nobody.

Francia began his reign in 1815: it lasted for thirty-five years. He certainly kept the people isolated from the rest of the world. He certainly kept them ignorant. He was an autocrat in commerce as well as in religion; he directed the stream of trade as well as the tendencies of thought. And he used his power to crush all who tried to overturn him.

Yet "El Supremo," as he liked to be called, proved himself to be wiser in his actions and was more sincerely mourned when he died at the age of

to settle, but it was found before long that, at any rate among those of Latin races, the efforts of the settlers were in inverse ratio to the help that they received. They looked to the Government to keep them altogether. Now the married man who emigrates from Europe or the United States to Paraguay receives a free grant of forty acres, the bachelor receives twenty acres, and free passages are given for the voyage up the river from Montevideo to Asunción, the capital of Paraguay.

This voyage gives the newcomer a good idea of the character of the country. As he passes from Argentina



CAMOUFLAGE IN THE CHASE DELUDES THE SHY OSTRICH

Both for the sake of its flesh, considered a delicacy, and for its feathers, largely used for personal adornment, the rhea, or South American ostrich, is much sought after by the Indians. A very shy, bird, the hunter takes advantage of its equal foolishness to approach it in ant-hill country by disguising himself with a bunch of the creepers that crown the head of every ant-hill!

Photo, Miss G. Boulter



HOSTAGES OF FORTUNE WHOSE LOT IS NOT TOO HAPPY IN AN INDIAN TOLDO OF PARAGUAY

Large families are not usual among the Paraguayan Indians, whose precarious and nomadic life would be greatly embarrassed by such a responsibility. There is, indeed, among the Lengua an organized system of birth control, and infanticide is still largely practised. Twins are deemed unlucky, and generally both are put to death. The first child is also often killed at birth, the excuse alleged being that it is never physically strong, owing probably to girls becoming mothers too young. Yet the mothers themselves are by no means devoid of natural maternal affection

Photo, Miss G. Boulter

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into Paraguay he can notice a change in the appearance and the manners of the people. The Argentino, accustomed to the life of the cowboy, and the Paraguayan, habituated to agriculture, are in many ways different; most of those who know them both prefer the latter.

The villages in which they live are composed of reed huts scattered round a low-roofed church, with a belfry standing a little apart, as the custom is in North Italy, and with open cloisters running along outside the wall. On the banks can be seen fields of tobacco and sugar-cane and groves of bananas. The plant life of Paraguay is marvellously rich and varied; in the damp, warm forests the flowering creepers form effects of indescribable loveliness. Some very fine timber is shipped down the Paraguay and Paraná rivers.

Bounteous Nature's Useful Gifts

The chief export, so far as the rest of South America is concerned, is the herb called Yerba Maté, which is brewed into the tea drunk all over the continent for its stimulant and refreshing effects. Oranges grow to perfection, and they are even used for making wine. The Paraguayan tobacco is black and strong. Men and women alike smoke it in large quantities, but there is not much demand for it out of the country. Another product of the soil is mandioca, which forms the staff of life for the Paraguayans as wheat bread does for the English. This is a root which has the alarming property of being poisonous to human life until it has been either boiled or baked. It is eaten as we eat potatoes, and it is also ground into a coarse powder and made into a kind of bread. It is used outside Paraguay for making tapioca; the Paraguayans themselves scarcely eat it in this form at all.

The soil is so fertile that it requires little cultivation. The people produce, therefore, when they are left to themselves, just what they need and no more.

The most industrious elements in the country are those which have been introduced from Europe. There are many thousands of Italians and a large number of Germans. A good number of Australians have done well.

Paraguay's Pastures and Park-lands

For grazing the land of the Republic is excellently suited; it has already a considerable export of beef, and, should conditions become more settled, it would become a cattle-raising country in a very big way of business. No high mountain regions reduce the quantity of grass-land. The climate is mild and equable. There is a heavy rainfall which, added to the mighty rivers and other numberless streams, keeps the pastures green and nourishing. The appearance of the greater part of the country has been described as resembling that of an English park. Here the climate has moved enthusiasts to call it "ideal." But there are also huge forests, which bring down the average of healthiness.

The forest area is called El Gran Chaco, and its size is estimated at 100,000 square miles. It forms the western part of Paraguay, and its ownership is not certain, for Bolivia claims it also. The population is very small, probably not more than 50,000, all Indians, about whom next to nothing was known until a missionary named Barbroke Grubb went among them at the risk of his life, studied their institutions and psychology, and explained them to the world.

Native Life in El Gran Chaco

He found that their system is still much the same as it was under the Jesuit rulers of their ancestors. The land belongs to the people; no man can own more than he cultivates. They work for present needs only. The desire to accumulate is scarcely known among them. Any ambition, any tendency towards "getting on," is discouraged. Change of any kind is opposed as



CORRECT MASCULINE COSTUME IN THE HEART OF PARAGUAY

Lengua men commonly wear but one garment, a blanket, fastened kilt-wise round the waist. It is made entirely of wool, spun and woven by the women, and is often of very fine texture. Districts have their distinctive patterns and colours, black and white being obtained from the natural wool, reds from the cochineal insect, yellows and browns from various barks. Greens and blues are not found

Photo, Miss G. Boulter



HERO OF MELODRAMA REALIZED ON A PARAGUAYAN ESTANCIA

Cattle-farming ranks second among the industries of Paraguay, over five million head of cattle being enumerated in the Republic. This peon is about to start on a round-up, equipped with lasso and bolas, and with his poncho on his saddle before him, ready to serve as waterproof, overcoat, or blanket, as need may be. In the angle behind him is the outlook tower adjoining the estancia house

Photo, Miss G. Bouller

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uncomfortable and unnecessary. They are suspicious of strangers; after the experience their forbears had with the Spaniards this is not surprising. Therefore they are reticent before them, and appear at first to be sullen, unemotional, gloomy. When Mr. Grubb got to know them, he learned that they were in truth a cheerful folk, loving laughter, enjoying their simple festivities, kindly, very fond of their children, and with strongly developed emotions of affection, hate, and fear.

Their patience under suffering or irritation seems to be without limits. They bear whatever bodily pain comes

to them without annoyance or complaint, though they show deep grief when those whom they hold dear die.

The industries which the Jesuits taught them have almost died out. Once these Guaranis were weavers, carpenters, potters, metal-workers, even locksmiths. They were skilful music-makers, both with voice and instrument. There were painters among them. Now they have relapsed from their civilized state, and the Christianity in which they were instructed has given place to that mythology which is found so widely spread among ancient races. This supposes that the Creator of the Universe, who is symbolised by a beetle (the Egyptian scarab), does not direct its course, but merely looks on. There is no worship of God therefore, no prayers, no sacrifices, no ritual. Happiness both in this world and hereafter is believed to depend upon observing natural laws. It is anticipated that the future life will be rather dull (this was the Roman idea), but although it may be no more pleasant than this life, it will not be actively unpleasant. If there is no enjoyment, there will at all events be no pain.

In wizards and witchcraft the Indians of the Chaco firmly believe, and they are ready to commit any cruelty under such influence. They practise the killing of unhealthy or unwanted babies, as did the Spartans of ancient Greece, but they pay much attention to the care and education of children who are strong and well. This is not left to individual parents, but is made a tribal concern.

Of the Indians who live outside the Chaco most are Roman Catholics, thus belonging to the Established Church of Paraguay. Other religions, however, are allowed free practice of their faith, and all marriages must be entered into before state officials in order to be recognized as valid by the law. They can also be solemnised by a priest if the parties desire the Church's blessing, but the ecclesiastical ceremony by itself is



TOBA DANDY IN FESTAL GARB

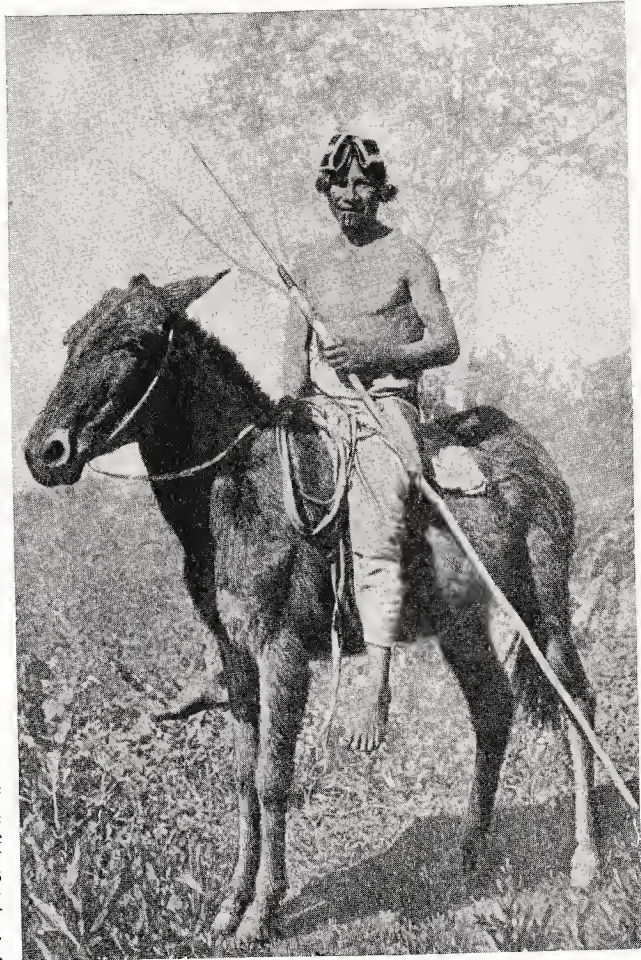
Toba Indians of the Gran Chaco usually wear paint and feathers rather than clothing, and the costume donned by this young exquisite for a festival is exceptionally "full" dress

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not sufficient. There is a state system of education—on paper. Schooling is free and compulsory—where there are schools. The number of those who can neither read nor write is large.

The capital, Asunción, is an ancient city. It was the residence of Spanish viceroys, and reminders of old Spain, which was so much under the influence of the Moors, peep out continually from the architecture of the place. It is a city of gardens and orange groves. The Paraguayans are a flower-loving people; the taste no doubt comes down from the Guaranis. They are fond of cleanliness, too, and order, though revolutions interfere sadly with the attainment of these blessings. Unhappily the South American habit of turning out governments by force was soon picked up by the Paraguayans. From 1881 onwards there were frequent revolutions. The curse of the professional politician descended upon them.

The new buildings are in the usual South American stucco style. Many of them, including the Parliament House, have suffered more than once from the effects of revolution; the thirteen senators and twenty-six deputies who compose the legislature meet in rather dilapidated halls. The chief industry of the capital is politics, with journalism as its tributary. There are plenty of newspapers, each advocating the claims of some party or politician, and promising prosperity as soon as their triumph is assured. The drying and packing of the Yerba Maté ought alone to make



MOUNTED FISH-SPEARMAN OF THE CHACO

Large tracts of El Gran Chaco are swamp. In summer much of the surface water subsides, and the fish take to the mud beneath. This Lengua Indian is going prodding with his long spear

Photo, Miss G. Boulter

Asunción well-to-do, but the growing of the leaf is hindered by the uncertainty of politics, by the undeveloped state of the country, by bands of marauders. If a stable and wise government should be put in office and given a fair chance, nothing could stop Paraguay from becoming one of the most flourishing and contented of the South American states.

Then its other towns would grow and prosper—Villa Rica, in a rich agricultural district; Concepción, on the Paraguay river; Encarnación, on the Paraná. These mighty highways to the sea make up for the lack of any coastline.



INDIANS ON TREK IN PARAGUAY, WHERE CARTS, AND ROADS TO CARRY THEM, ARE UNKNOWN

Carts are virtually unknown in the remote regions of Paraguay, where roads are non-existent, and as the Indians do not use saddles they have to fasten all their belongings to their own persons when travelling. A household removal thus has its humorous aspect to the onlooker, the women, cumbered with mats, blankets, water-jars, cooking-pots, and large string bags stuffed with other goods, balanced on the stocky little horses and followed by other women on foot similarly encumbered, while the men walk in front, carrying only their weapons

Photo. Miss G. Boulter

Paraguay

II. The Unhappy Story of Its Mis-Government

By W. H. Koebel

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ACCORDING to one account, the name of this inland Republic is a corruption of the word "Paya-gua," an Indian tribe, while another version renders it as "crowned rivers"—i.e., "Paragua" (palm-crown) and "i" (water). It embraces an area of slightly less than 300,000 square miles, is situated between $22^{\circ} 4'$ and $27^{\circ} 30'$ S. lat., and $54^{\circ} 32'$ and $61^{\circ} 20'$ W. long., and is bounded north and east by Brazil, south-east and south-west by Argentina, and west and north-west by Bolivia.

Climatically, the winter season lasts from April to September, and the summer season from October to March. In the former season the mean temperature is about 71° , and in summer 81° . The heaviest rains occur during August, September, and October. Treaties of 1872 and 1876 sought to delimitate the boundaries, and by the second of these (signed at Buenos Aires on February 3, 1876) the point of the El Gran Chaco between Rio Verde and Bahia Negro was awarded to Paraguay. The region stretching from Rio Verde and the River Pilcomayo was eventually (1878) also confirmed as Paraguayan territory, on the arbitration of the Government of the United States.

The great River Paraguay splits the Republic into two regions, Paraguay Oriental to the east and Paraguay Occidental (better known as El Gran Chaco) to the west. Of these the first is by far the more important, containing all the centres of population and commerce. The Chaco country, much of which is still unexplored, is sparsely populated, principally by Indians of various tribes. Paraguay Oriental is mountainous in character, but the plateaux are gently undulating and the valleys are fertile. The mountain system, known as the Sierra Amambay from north to south, is identified as the Sierra Mbaracayu to the east and west. Both the Paraguay and Paraná

rivers have their sources in Brazilian territory, and have a total length of 1,800 and 2,000 miles respectively. The Paraguay joins the Paraná in the neighbourhood of Corrientes, and its chief affluents include the Apá, Tacuari, Cuyabá, Jaura, Bermejo, and the important frontier river Pilcomayo. The two last-mentioned streams serve to water the Chaco. In the valley of the Paraguay are situated extensive tracts of marsh country. The principal sheet of fresh water in the Republic is Lake Ypoa. There is a total population of about 1,500,000. The chief towns of the Republic comprise Asunción, the capital (on the east bank of the Paraguay, 12,000 miles from the sea, with a population of 150,000), Villa Rica, Concepción, Villa del Pilar on the Paraguay, and the port of Encarnación on the Paraná.

In 1515 Paraguay was tentatively visited by Juan de Solís, and a decade later by Sebastian Cabot in the course of his surveys of the Paraguay and Upper Paraná. Cabot contented himself with building the fort of Santo Espiritu, but several years later Juan de Ayolas arrived, and founded the town of Asunción on August 15, 1535. He was in turn followed



THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY

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in command by Domingo Martinez de Irala in 1538-42, when Spanish explorations were pushed into the Chaco and large numbers of Indians enslaved. In 1542 Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca was appointed viceroy of the Plate country, with special instructions to propagate the Christian faith. A few Franciscan missionaries had already arrived, and on reaching Asunción Alvar Nuñez informed them of the importance attached to their labours among the Indians.

The Franciscan fathers effected much good, but an intrigue by Irala overthrew Nuñez in 1544, he being deported to Spain to endure a trial which ended in his

the Chaco to Paraguay, preaching to the Indians in their own language and baptising thousands of them. Hernando Arias de Saavedra, himself born at Asunción, enjoyed two terms as governor (1589-93 and 1601-9), and during his second term the Jesuits were officially recognised in Paraguay by order of Philip III. of Spain. They accordingly began their work, including the erection of missions, and prospered for more than a century. In 1620, Paraguay and La Plata (Buenos Aires) were formally separated, both being subservient to the viceroy of Peru.

Although a movement in opposition to the Jesuit influence was frustrated by



HANDY HOUSEWIFE WHO MAKES HER OWN STRING BAGS

Labour is fairly evenly divided among the Lengua Indians, the husband doing the hunting while the wife manufactures most of the household articles. Here, the hunter being fed, his wife takes up her knitting to contrive a waist-bag, which she is fashioning out of home-spun string

Photo, Miss G. Boulter

acquittal eight years subsequently. Irala then administered the affairs of Paraguay until he died in 1557. He built schools and a cathedral in Asunción, but both Franciscan and Jesuit missionaries frequently suffered from misunderstanding and even hostility on the part of the governing powers. Francisco Ortiz de Vergara ruled the province (1559-65) until his deposition, and Felipe de Cacércs (1566-80) until his murder by the Indians.

During the administration of Torres de Vera, who took office in 1587, the celebrated Franciscan Solano (canonised as "The Apostle of Paraguay") made a momentous journey from Peru through

the action of Zabala, the governor of Buenos Aires (1735), the act of Ferdinand VI. of Spain in ceding to Portugal the area of La Guayra and 20,000 square miles east of the Uruguay river (1750), led to the eventual expulsion of the Jesuits from Paraguay in 1767. By that time, however, the treaty with Portugal had actually been abrogated. In 1776, the important step was taken of including Paraguay in the newly-constituted viceroyalty of La Plata.

Paraguay proclaimed herself a Republic, independent of Spanish rule or interference, in 1811. A series of more or less blood-thirsty dictatorships followed. The first

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of these, under José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, endured from 1811 to 1840, and ended only with his death. His despotic power was then assumed by Carlos Antonio López (1841-1862). On the accession to power of the latter's son Francisco Solano López, serious trouble arose with Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. López was the aggressor in the war which followed in 1864. He violated the neutrality of Argentina by marching his army through it for the invasion of southern Brazil. To this act of aggression the Republics of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay rejoined by forming an alliance against López. The sequel was a terrible war—one of the most bloodthirsty and prolonged that have ever devastated the South American continent—which endured for nearly six years before the power of López was finally overcome.

Ruin Wrought in Six Years' War

The war was quickly carried into Paraguayan territory. López, foreseeing that he was doomed to be crushed by weight of numbers, adopted the desperate expedient of wholesale conscription of all Paraguayan males down to the ages of fourteen and even twelve. Not only this, but the female population were utilised for the commissariat service, and suffered terrible hardships in the course of the campaign. Moreover, López in his desperation caused every homestead on his line of retreat, and every animal in the fields to be destroyed, so that the invaders might find only a wilderness. A fairly reliable computation has placed it on record that, out of a Paraguayan population of 1,337,439 in 1864, there remained 28,476 males, 106,254 females above the age of fifteen, and 86,079 children, when hostilities came to an end.

This occurred on March 1, 1870, when finally López was slain in the decisive battle of Aquidaban. During the following six months, a council of three governed the country, Carlos Loizaga,

José de Bedoya, and Cirilo Rivarola. On November 25, 1870, the Constituent Assembly promulgated a Constitution for Paraguay. It enacted that the legislative power be vested in a Senate and Chamber of Deputies, elected by universal manhood suffrage in the ratio of one senator to every 12,000 inhabitants and one deputy to every 6,000, and the salary of each member of Congress to be £200 per annum. The President, chosen by an electoral college for four years and only to be re-elected after eight consecutive years, was to be assisted by a Cabinet of five. Paraguay became insolvent in 1874.

Efforts Towards Peace and Progress

Paraguay escaped annexation, although the Brazilian army remained in partial occupation of her territory for more than six years, and it was estimated that she owed Brazil, in indemnities and compensations, some forty millions sterling. Minor revolutions took place in Paraguay in 1881, in 1894, when J. B. Egusquiza assumed the Presidency, and in 1898, when he was hurled from power. His compulsory resignation probably averted a war with Bolivia over the frontier question, but the financial situation certainly improved during his administration. Further civil outbreaks took place in 1904, happily terminated by the treaty of Pilcomayo in December, and in 1908-9.

The extension of the Paraguay Central Railway, beginning in 1906, proved a landmark in the increase of trade and prosperity of the country generally. By two enactments of 1909, primary education was made compulsory between the ages of five and fourteen years, and a law was ordained for the "conversion of the Indians to Christianity and civilization."

During the present century the most notable presidents of the Republic have been Dr. Eduardo Schaerlin, 1912-16, and Manuel Gondra who served two separate terms in the chief magistracy.

Paraguay preserved complete neutrality throughout the Great War.

PARAGUAY: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Country

A republic of South America forming part of the Rio de la Plata system. Bordered east by Brazil, south and west by Argentina, and north by Bolivia, it lies across the tropic of Capricorn, and has a climate varying between tropical and sub-tropical. Rivers Pilcomayo and Paraguay form western, River Paraná the eastern and southern boundaries, the latter stream uniting eventually with Rio de la Plata and forming highway to South Atlantic. Large portion of country covered by valuable forests or plains of grass from which rise moderate hills. Both pasturage and agriculture well provided for. Part of the region of swamp and savanna known as El Gran Chaco is included in Paraguay. Total area, excluding El Gran Chaco, about 75,000 square miles, with population of less than a million.

Commerce and Industries

Country supports large herds of cattle, and there is considerable meat packing and curing industry. Sweet potatoes, maize, rice, beans, sugar, and cotton are produced. Copper, iron, and manganese deposits exist. In 1920 imports, including hardware, wines and spirits, textiles and drugs, totalled £2,623,701; and exports, of which hides, yerba (Paraguay tea), tobacco, oranges, cattle, and canned beef were the chief, aggregated £3,037,116.

Chief Towns

Asunción, capital (estimated population of town and surrounding district, 100,000), Villa Rica (26,000), Concepción (15,000), Carapegua (15,000), Encarnación (12,500).



MEMBERS OF THE PERSIAN PARLIAMENT GROUPED OUTSIDE A GOVERNMENT BUILDING

Persia has been a kingdom for 2,500 years. Until the year 1906 the form of government in its most important features resembled that of Turkey: the Shah, within certain limitations, being an absolute ruler. In 1906, consequent on the demand of the people for representative institutions, the Shah permitted the establishment of a National Assembly, known as the Majlis. The Majlis held sessions in 1909 and 1915, and was reopened in June, 1921, by the reigning Shah.

Photo, Underwood Press Service